Fuel price quiz from MP

WALES – see page 3

Building services merged

HUNDREDS of jobs will be created under fresh plans to build around 300 new homes and a major new business park on a former sugar factory site in Kidderminster.

The 34-acre development, where the old British Sugar factory stood in Steurport Road, will form part of the South Kidderminster Enterprise Park, which won support from government communities secretary Eric Pickles last month.

The plans, by site owners St Francis Group, will open up to a public consultation tomorrow (November 18) and Saturday (November 19) from 10am.

Mr Masters labelled the plans “very exciting” for the town.

“Very exciting” for the town.

Building services merged

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Building services merged

“Very exciting” for the town.
"WE DON'T WANT to intrude on anyone – and we don't want anyone intruding on us," said 51-year-old mother-of-six and grandmother Ann Nunn, one of the parents of the family – is home to three businesses, employing six people.

As the public consultation over controversial sites for gipsies and travellers in Wyre Forest nears its end, Louise Jew looks at both sides of the argument.

Outrage of residents

WYRE FOREST District Council's proposals to create 43 new pitches for gipsies and travellers has sparked outrage from local residents from the site.

A meeting of the council's special overview and scrutiny committee had to be abandoned when too many people turned up and members decided it posed a health and safety risk.

Eight of the 15 original sites were dropped, but residents fear that means a greater chance of approval for the others.

The remaining sites include Manor Farm in Stourport, which the consultants' report says is 'viable'. Farmer Tim Bangs, who has lived at the site for more than 10 years, says the farm – owned by the district council and leased to the family – is home to three businesses, employing six people.

The other sites the council is consulting the public on are Stourport Road, Knowle, the former Lea Court Hospital, Cosford, the former Sin Mill School, Broadwater, Kidderminster, land adjacent to Nouns Close, Stourport Avenue, Stourport, and land near the former Lea Court Hospital in Cosford, near Kidderminster.

An appeal for more pitches in the countryside and not too close to houses.

Ann, whose late parents Richard and Rose Burns ran a private caravan park called Crewearms, in Stourport, was brought up in the town.

She attended Ten Lane, Primary, Lickhill Middle and then Stourport High School.

She left school at 16, married at 21 and she and her family have lived on the Worcestershire County Council's Broom Road caravan site.

"I've stopped here because we like Stourport – it's not right for a travellers' site to be on the town.

"We are part of the English heritage and are no different to any other person, apart from we can't have it myself," she added.

"We don't want to intrude on anyone – and we don't want anyone intruding on us."
Old carpet warehouse to be a £6m academy

A £6m MILLION academy will be created in a historic former carpet warehouse in Kidderminster as part of £40m regeneration plans.

The listed Piano Building at Weavers Wharf, built by Brintons in 1867, will become an education and training centre for young people offering vocational and traditional subjects.

A joint project between Kidderminster College and College, the academy is expected to open its doors to the first pupils in September next year. It will be the first in a series of regeneration projects across the town.

Wyre Forest District Council leader John Campion said getting a major national institution interested in moving in illustrated confidence with the future of Kidderminster's regeneration.

Two held on theft of jewels

TWO MN have been arrested on suspicion of a Kidderminster burglary after being stopped on a busy route by police who closed the road off.

A jewellery was reported stolen from a house in Car-

Studio Drive shortly before 2.50 pm on November 7.

A vehicle was subsequently spotted by officers at Osmaston to the A449 Highridge.

It was stopped near the St George's roundabout about 1.50pm and the road closed.

Two men were arrested on suspicion of burglary and one woman also held on suspicion of dangerous driving.

They are being questioned by police.

Victim left injured in pub attack

A CRYING man, in his 30s, has received wounds to his face and back of his head, as a result of being attacked with a bottle or glass.

A man was injured after being stopped on a busy route by police who closed the road off.

A vehicle was subsequently spotted by officers at Osmaston to the A449 Highridge.

It was stopped near the St George's roundabout about 1.50pm and the road closed.

Two men were arrested on suspicion of burglary and one woman also held on suspicion of dangerous driving.

They are being questioned by police.

Meet MasterChef hopeful Chris

CHEF Chris Williams is tuck-

two of the nation’s most

served in the latest

Chris, who runs the cafe at the

Buxton Glass

Centre, has won a

place in the latest

series of Mas-

MasterChef.

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Pitched battle that may close hockey club

A HOCKEY CLUB which is almost 120 years old may be forced to close after losing its pitch to make way for football and rugby teams instead.

The whistle could be blown on Kidderminster Hockey Club after King Charles I School, where its members play home matches, won funding from the Football Association towards a £500,000 new pitch.

The FA invested the site of the artificial grass "carpet" surface must be 65mm, which would be suitable for football or rugby – but too long for hockey. The club has been told it will have to leave at the end of the hockey season in March.

Chairman Chris Longmore said: "We feel we’ve been stabbed in the back – we’ve been there for 45 years and some years ago paid £20,000 to help refurbish the pitch. "We are now in the process of giving round pitches in towns as far afield as Halesowen and Bromsgrove to check on availability of pitches for the 2012-13 season – we either find somewhere else or will have to close down.

"And if we move to another town, fewer players will come back to our clubhouse afterwards and we will lose members."

Mr Longmore said that the only other hockey pitches in the Wyre Forest district were two at the home of Kidderminster’s rival club, Stourport.

And, although Wyre Forest Council was looking at creating a third pitch, that development is at least 18 months away and the finding not certain.

Requirements

Tim Gulliver, head teacher of King Charles I School, said: "I do sympathise and feel for Chris and Kidderminster Hockey Club. But football and rugby is what young people are interested in and very few of our people are interested in hockey anymore. "Our young people and the local community will gain far more benefit if we have a pitch for football and rugby. We’d love to move Kidderminster Hockey Club’s requirements but the FA need a set surface."

The FA has offered to pay half the £500,000 cost of the new pitch, with the school finding the rest through fundraising, capital funding and grants.

Kidderminster Hockey Club, which was founded in 1892 and based at Chester Road Sporting Club, has three men’s and one ladies’ sides and around 60 members.

Mayor set to open charity fair

THE Mayor of Kidderminster will be opening a charity fair this weekend.

Councillor Ann Hingley will be at the Unitarian New Meeting House, in Church Street, off the Bull Ring in Kidderminster on Sunday November 20.

Attractions will include a range of goods on sale including books, toys, games, jewellery, and gifts.

Coffee, tea and homemade cakes will also be for sale in the hall adjacent to the church.

The fair will be open from 10:30 am to 2:30 pm.

Most of the proceeds will go to the Maggs Centre for the Homeless in Worcester, which serves the whole of the county.

A smaller portion will go to support the New Meeting House which will be open for visitors on the day.

For details, contact Ash James on 01384 274897.

Hood in the Wood on school stage

KINVER Light Operatic Society is preparing to stage a production of Robin Hood and the Babes in the Wood.

It will take place between December 4 and 10 at Edgecliff High School in Kinver.

Tickets range from £5.50 for concessions to £10 per adult. Contact 01384 292484.

Blood donors are needed in town

BLOOD donor sessions are taking place today, (November 17) in Stourport.

There will be sessions at the Civic Centre in New Street from 1.30pm and 5.30-7pm.

More details: 0300 123 2323.

Stuffed with restaurants

Visit LocalMole.co.uk now and find the local business you’re looking for in seconds.
THE CIVIC Group is looking for lift-off with its first professional theatre production in Stourport.

Arabian Nights will be performed at Stourport Civic Hall on Thursday, November 24 (7pm).

The Fairground Theatre Company production is part of Shindig, which takes professional live arts to community venues in Worcestershire.

Arabian Nights features expressive movement, poetic text and an enchanting score to whisk an audience away by magic carpet to ancient Arabia. The family show, suitable for seven-year-olds and up, is in a radio-play style.

“The Arabian Nights is one of three shows coming up in the town,” said Civic Group chair Ian Bradley.

“This is the first time that The Civic Group have produced a professional theatre performance. We hope that this will be the first of many more events to come after the successful CIVIC Centre, Stourport, Stourport Civic Hall.”

Tickets cost £7 for adults, £5.50 for children and concessions. Contact 01299 798007, visit the box office on Saturday from 11am-5pm or go to Mr Clean Call, High Street, Stourport.

Regal entertainers are wanted for the parade

STREET entertainers are needed for this year’s Three Kings Parade which takes place in Stourport next week.

The annual event is on Friday, November 24 and before the town’s Christmas lights are switched on street performers will entertain an expected 5,000-strong crowd from 4-9pm.

A Cinderella parade also takes place through Stourport, led by the mayor, the Stourport regal queen Kasey Organ, Scout and Guide bands and Father Christmas on his sleigh.

Banksies, fire-eaters or any street entertainers are allowed. Contact Pete Roberts, of Stourport Business Association, on 01299-828930.

STORY PORT Civic Hall will open its doors as a Christmas craft fair this weekend.

Shalls will include jewellers, locally produced honey, Lichfield Primary School Enterprise Group, a traditional sweet shop, handmade wooden decorations, illustrations, paintings and cards.

The event, from 4-8.30pm on Friday, November 25, forms part of the annual Three Kings Parade.

Members of the Civic Group will provide light refreshments and welcome visitors.

All children must be accompanied by an adult.

Civic Group chair Ian Bradley said: “We are delighted to provide this opportunity for some of our local craft makers to show case their excellent work.”

Anyone who would like to book a stall at the fair should contact Ian Bradley on 01299 875914 or Liz Sheerin on 01219 828927.

Civic Hall will host craft fair

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Christmas looming, as is my departure

LESS than two months until the C word... I’m not going to say it, because it’ll remind me that I have bought NO CHRISTMAS PRESENTS YET! Ugh, it’s going to be a December 24 A.Content.
Fancy seeing your work colleagues to a lovely dinner before the festive season takes hold? We’ve teamed up with the Frankie & Benny’s in Kidderminster to say thank you to the work places of north Worcestershire. Nominate YOUR workplace to be The Wyre Workplace of the Week by emailing info@thewyre.com and you could win £30 to spend in the restaurant. Listen to The Wyre Breakfast Show for all the details.

The colleagues at Lumdons Solicitors are putting on an event for Children In Need. The “Wizathon” is on Friday, November 18 at their Worcester and Stourport offices. The group will not charge clients but instead will ask them to make a donation to Children In Need, suggesting a minimum of £50 per pair.

There will also be free tea/coffee and homemade cakes for those waiting to see someone for a will. Telephone their office on 01529 877766 for an appointment or drop in on the day.

I’ve just got enough words left to say...so long, and thanks for all the fish.

It’s been a brilliant year on 107.2 The Wyre but it’s with a heavy heart that I’ll tell you this is my last column for the Kidderminster Chronicle and this is my final week on 107.2 The Wyre. Thanks to everybody who’s taken time to read the nonsense I’ve written and listened to the nonsense I’ve spouted on the Breakfast Show. It’s been lots of fun, and hey – let’s stay in touch!

I just got enough words left to...so long, and thanks for all the fish.

WAKE UP TO BREAKFAST WITH TOM CAMPBELL

Top Ten Playlist of the Week

WAKE UP TO BREAKFAST WITH TOM CAMPBELL

Bringing travel updates to keep you moving...
Thieves snatch Legion cash tin

CALLOUS thieves stole a poppy collection box in Stourport.

The Royal British Legion tin was taken from Stourport Rugby Club, in Harold Street, between 5pm and 9pm on Saturday, November 12. Contents are estimated at £120 and £150.

Vice-Chairman of the Stourport and district branch of the Royal British Legion, secretary Peter Dunn, expressed his anger.

He said: “Students have researched the details of the Ex-Wolverley Grammar Somme regions and so the service is always extremely relevant to the immediate local community and to our school.”

“However it is particularly shocking that this theft happened between Armistice Day and Remembrance Sunday,” he added.

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Our window and conservatory advisors are available in our showrooms weekdays from 9.00 am to 5.30 pm and Saturday 9.00 am to 4.00 pm. At Rydale we feel that it is very important to see products on display before you make your final decision to purchase. We invite you to come into our showrooms to view all the products available, the showrooms are here for you the customer.

We are open most of the year. Rydale has been a trusted brand in our area for over 30 years. If I give you a guarantee I will always be here to honour it. Can that be said of any other company in the area? Rydale also offer a Supply Only service on all products including free delivery.

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You are invited to visit one of the largest Conservatories and Window Showrooms in the UK
A KIDDERMINSTER woman who stole almost £20,000 from her 85-year-old father-in-law in a "cruel" two-year scam is behind bars after admitting five charges of fraud.

Debra Addison, aged 46, siphoned off the cash from partially-sighted pensioner Kenneth Addison to pay for items ranging from a £7.98 book to a £1,000 cruise for herself and her husband.

She was jailed for 20 months at Worcester Crown Court after pleading guilty, Judge Philip Parker QC told the hearing that Mr Addison had been "debased" by the loss of savings, accumulated through a frugal lifestyle. The action had affected the level of care he could afford.

"These were cruel frauds carried out on a very vulnerable man who trusted you implicitly," he told her.

Mr Matthews Barnes, prosecuting, said Addison had been an administrator for a local council for 25 years and was trusted by the family to look after the elderly man's accounts.

The racket was only revealed when other members of the family discovered money was missing. Miss Cathy Orchard (defending), said Addison had managed her father-in-law's affairs for five years before the fraud started.

Tabletop sale at the village hall

STOUCHTON Village Hall will stage a tabletop sale on Saturday (November 26). Stalls will be set up from 9.30am with doors opening at 10am.

Entry for adults will be £1, children free. Tables cost £10 – call Margaret Rogers on 07807 137920.

Women’s £20,000 father-in-law scam

Spencer Gropp, aged 15, headteacher Ian Smith and Erin Woodward, seven, get ready to celebrate the anniversary of Upper Ayton Primary School

A PRIMARY school near Bewdley is celebrating 150 years since first opening its doors to children – and wants to hear from ex-pupils for a special celebration.

Upg Ayton Primary School will mark the anniversary with a festive fair on December 3. Staff are urging former pupils to get in touch so they can send out invitations. It will give ex-students the chance to meet up with their old classmates while enjoying festive themed events.

The school opened in 1861 and for much of its life was a first school attended by nine and 10-year-olds before they moved up to secondary school.

The fair will feature period costume performances by the Discover History and Streakland theatre groups. Stalls will sell vintage clothing and jewellery. Ex-pupils are asked to call 01299 881260.

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Best of today’s music & classic hits from the last 4 decades
CLOTHES Show Live, the UK’s biggest fashion and beauty event, returns for its 23rd year with even more fashion, beauty and shopping than ever from December 2-7 at Birmingham’s NEC.

With hundreds of leading fashion and beauty brands, top street style stars, hair and beauty from the industry experts and the UK’s favourite celebrities, it’s the ultimate girls’ day out.

And what’s more, you could be going for free!

Clothes Show Live in association with Suzuki has joined with the Chronicle series to give 27 readers the chance to win a pair of tickets to the show. Whether looking for the latest, cutting edge fashion; glamorous catwalk shows featuring red-vin-steam designer collections; the perfect opportuni-ty to pamper and relax; and much much more – this year’s Clothes Show Live is bigger and better than ever!

Celebrities

Benedict, GDH, Candy, Gordon, Reality, Lee Stafford and Elyse are among the well known and ‘fashion’ fashion and beauty brands to shop from; while X Factor resi-dent hard-hitter Jamie Stephens, celebrity stylist Karl Wiliam and Clothes Show veteran Cyan Frankish will all be on hand to give demonstrations and their vital advice about the industry.

Don’t miss the UK’s favourite celebrities and musical icons including: Alexandra Burke, TOWIE’s Lauren, Maria, Kirk, Joey, Angie and Harry, Her Majesty & The Wolves, Pussycat Doll Kimberly Wyatt; Jeff Brazier, girl band Parade and A host of Hol-lyoaks stars as they appear across the shows stages and bars including the Diet Coke Image Catwalk, Catch Stylish duo George Lamb and Grace Woodward presenting in Clothes Show Live’s famous Suzuki Fashion Theatre.

See Clothes Show Live entwines fashion and music featuring performances from Her Majesty and the Wolves featuring Kimberly Wyatt in an original themed catwalk show. This year’s theme is Night At The Department Store and you can see more than 45 models and dancers perform an awe-inspiring spectacular in collections from top designers and find out what really happens when the lights go out in your favourite shops.

For more information, visit www.theclothesshow.co.uk and for tickets, which start at just £27 (plus booking and transac-tion fees), go to www.theritkafactory.com.

KEEP FASHION LIVE 365 days a year

Clothes Show has launched the new mobile phone app for iPhone and Android users: Clothes Show – Keep Fashion Live.

The app ensures glamorous goddesses have fashion at their fingertips 24/7, 365 days a year. It is packed with the latest must-have news; celebrity blogs; expert styling and beauty tips; street style photographs direct from the UK’s most fashionable cities and exclusive shopping offers.

It is free to download from the Clothes Show hub, clothesshowlive.com, or directly from the App Store for any iPhone users or the Android Marketplace for Android users.

The Clothes Show App is what the fashion-pack are all lusting after this season – just search Clothes Show Live – Keep Fashion Live.

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Check first, Griff warns audience

At Bewdley Baptist Church are Griff Rhys Jones, second left, with, from left, civic society chairs Richard Perrin (Bewdley), Pauline Annis (Bewdley), Nick Hughes (Kidderminster), and Heather Imran (Worcester). Picture: Colin Hill

Up To 45% Discount

The hunt is on for rock-solid demonstrators

THE National Trust is to restore another of the celebrated rock houses at Kinver Edge – and needs volunteers to show visitors around.
The house, known locally as the Martindale Caves after one of the families that lived there, has been the subject of public consultation for the past year. People have told staff what they would like to see on display.

They have also chosen what period they want the restoration to reflect.

The vote is now in and an overwhelming number of people voted for the house to be restored to the way it was in the 1930s, complete with fine flour.

Staff want a large number of new volunteers to help show people around the new house and run school visits.

Property manager Laura Batchman said: “It’s a wonderful project to be involved in.

We really want to get local people on board and help bring the house to life.

Anybody interested in finding out more can go to a free volunteer taster day on Saturday (November 19) from 11am to 4pm where staff will be on hand to show the house and discuss the project.

Alternatively, contact Laura Batchman at laura.broadhurst@national trust.org.uk or on 07520520560.

Ansonists torch car

A CAR containing Christmas presents has been destroyed after an arson attack in Kidderminster.

The Peugeot 306 was set alight on a drive in Jubilee Drive. A neighbour raised the alarm after hearing the noise of items being thrown into the vehicle.

The alarm was raised at 10am on Saturday morning.

PC Emma Gannell said: “We are treating it as arson. The owner had only recently acquired the vehicle and it is most upset, particularly as there were Christmas presents in the best of the car which were also destroyed.

The incident happened on Saturday morning, October 27.

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Baldwin Lodge, which has sold for £280,000

House named after PM sells for £280,000

A LANDMARK Wyre Forest house which was named after former Prime Minister Stanley Baldwin has been sold for £280,000 at auction.

Bids flooded in for the three-bedroom Baldwin Lodge which is a short distance from Astley Hall in Stourport where the statesman died in 1947.

Baldwin, who had three spells in office at Downing Street in the 1920s and 1930s, was born in nearby Lower Park in Bewdley.

The property named in honour of Baldwin’s most famous son went under the hammer at a Hall property auction in Kidderminster and included two outbuildings, a chaisel and garden shed.

Duncan Foulkes, ephemeraus for the auctioneers, said the house, which is in need of being refurbished, attracted a lot of interest from buyers.

“After an opening bid of £200,000, the bidding rose quickly and the property was purchased for £280,000 by a local lady,” he said.

Wars

Baldwin first entered the House of Commons as an MP for Bewdley in 1906.

He was Prime Minister three times in the period between First and Second World Wars and also held the positions of Chancellor of the Exchequer and President of the Board of Trade.

He later became the First Earl Baldwin of Bewdley and was a Knight of the Garter. The father of six died aged 80.

His ashes are buried at Worcester Cathedral and many people visit every year to pay tribute to the famous politician.

Other lots in the auction included 19.35 acres of pasture land at Drakelow Lane, Wolverton, near Kidderminster, which sold for £21,000.

The majority of the site, which is accessed off Drakelow Lane, is light pasture land with a small area of scrub.
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YOUR HOME MAY BE REPOSSESSED IF YOU DO NOT KEEP UP REPAYMENTS ON YOUR MORTGAGE

Work is complete on £1m bridge rebuild
A £1.1MILLION restoration project on a nearly 200-year-old landmark bridge near Stourport has been completed.
Work has been carried out to strengthen the Grade II-listed Holt Fleet Bridge, which was designed by engineer Thomas Telford.
A series of roadworks and a weight-restriction limit had been in place while the repairs were carried out, leading to delays for people travelling between Kidderminster and Worcester. The bridge, which carries the A443 across the River Severn, has been reinforced and repainted.
The work took place following the introduction of an emergency 7.5 tonne weight restriction two years ago due to mildew growing at the spot. That restriction has now been lifted to open up the route to both commuter and commercial traffic.
Councillor John Smith OBE, Worcestershire County Council’s cabinet member for highways and transport, said: “This is great news. The removal of the 7.5 tonne weight limit that was imposed on the bridge two years ago was an important objective to allow traffic unrestricted use of the road again and reopening this area of Worcestershire to business.
Complex
“The bridge is a very complex cast iron structure and is nearly 200-years-old. The essential repairs were equally complex, but we are very pleased with the result of completion on time and within the budget. I’d like to express my gratitude to motorists and those living locally for their patience whilst the essential works have been carried out and to the contractor, Volker Lasar.”
The 150ft bridge was constructed between 1826 and 1828.

Forthcoming Events at the Wyre Forest Glades Arena
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www.worcestershire.gov.uk/fostering

At the bridge are, from left, county councillor Maurice Broomfield, county councillor John Smith OBE, Andrew Waite of Halcrow Group Ltd, county councillor Alyn Davies, Volker Lasar managing director Mike Weaver and Worcestershire County Council engineering project manager Richard Attenborough

Worcester, Hereford and Worcester Fire and Rescue Service has made the appeal. Watch Commander Darren Fackwood said: “Candles are a typical sight in many homes.
“Left unattended, an open flame could all too easily leave a trail of devastation. Nationally, more than 55 fires are started by candles every day.”

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WHAT better way to get into the festive spirit than with a tasty family day out with chocolate paradise – chocolate heaven.

Cadbury World is getting into the Christmas spirit this winter and has joined forces with the Chronicle series to give away tickets to 12 lucky families for a fun-packed day out.

Every weekend from Saturday, November 19, Santa Claus will be flying in from the North Pole to take up residence at the Bournville-based attraction, where children will have the chance to meet him and receive a free gift.

Cinderella will also be making an appearance and getting her glad rags on to perform in a pantomime in the Cadbury World marquee.

This enchanting 30-minute production, complete with original songs and plenty of panto, promises to be lots of fun for the whole family.

Treats
Parents searching for tempting stocking fillers will also be able to purchase limited-edition handmade festive chocolates from the world’s biggest Cadbury shop, just one of the 14 different zones that make up Cadbury World.

In addition to these festive activities, families can enjoy everything from travelling back in time to learn about how the Cadbury brand began, creating their own taste sensation by combining warm liquid Dairy Milk with a range of sweet treats, in the Purple Planet zone, visitors can chase a Cadbury Creme Egg, grow their own cocoa beans and see themselves made out of chocolate, whilst the Cadabara ride gives grown-ups and children alike the chance to climb on board one of Cadbury World’s Beamobiles and enjoy a ride through a chocolate wonderland.

- For more information about arranging a trip to Cadbury World, you can visit www.cadburyworld.co.uk
- A family ticket admits up to two adults and two children
- Weekends from November 26 to December 18

HOW TO ENTER
To stand a chance of winning, answer the following question:

What is the name of the Cadbury World ride?

Send your answer on a postcard with your name, address and contact number to Cadbury competition, Chronicle series (editorial), 61-53 Queen Street, Kidderminster, DY10 1EB. Closing date: Thursday, November 24.

Usual rules apply.

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Official return of the ‘Great Detective’

SIR Arthur Conan Doyle’s great detective, Sherlock Holmes, is back in the first novel actually commissioned by the author’s estate, The House of Silk (Hardback, Orion, £18.99) by Anthony Horowitz.

Of course, Holmes is a master of the comeback. Conan Doyle apparently first killed him off when Holmes and his nemesis the criminal mastermind Professor Moriarty plunged into the River Thames (as featured in The Final Problem), published in Strand Magazine in 1893 and later included in The Memoirs of Sherlock Holmes. However, so great was the outcry that theScottish author brought back his greatest detective for another series of adventures, and Holmes was eventually to be reinstated on the South Downs, flying triumphantly from his lofty position of insured life.

The final collection of Holmes stories, The Case-Book of Sherlock Holmes, was published in 1927, three years before the author’s death.

There have been, and still are, dozens of stories in print and on screen involving Holmes and his friend and biographer Dr John Watson since then, but this is the first work to be added to the official canon by Conan Doyle’s estate. It comes at a time when the iconic detective has never been more popular, the two most recent manifestations of this enduring appeal being Guy Ritchie’s action-packed movie version and Steven Moffat and Mark Gatiss’ more cerebral and stylish version of a 21st century updating in a BBC TV drama.

But the elementary question remains, is it any good? The answer is emphatically yes. The estate chose wisely in Horowitz who, though he is best known as a children’s author for his hugely successful Alex Rider adventures, was the screenwriter who adapted Agatha Christie’s fastidious Belgian detective Hercule Poirot for television.

The House of Silk is full of references that Holmes aficionados will recognise and enjoy but it is also a cracking crime mystery in its own right.

The upshot is the discovery of a manuscript, 100 years after the death of Holmes, which was Watson’s account of a case so controversial and shocking that it could not be published.

So the game is afoot, again. An apparently straightforward case of an Irish-American ruffian seeking revenge on a London art dealer, because he was named alongside the millionaire who put troublemaker Professor Moriarty on his game’s trial, proves to be more complex. When one of Holmes’ Baker Street irregulars, the street urchin who acts as his eyes and ears in the criminal underworld, is murdered, Holmes vows to bring the mysterious House of Silk to justice.

Horowitz suggests Conan Doyle’s style without copying it that could risk parody and his descriptions are sometimes more detailed than those that Conan Doyle would give. He also omits the author’s original more archaic turns of phrase. Often Conan Doyle’s stories feature long periods of dialogue that read like a script whereas Horowitz creates a richly atmospheric London of fog, poverty and lurking evil.

For more information about the Great Detective, read our interview with Anthony Horowitz in this week’s Kidderminster Mirror & Glass (on sale Wednesday).
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Stars are set to shine at NEC memorabilia festival

CELEBRITIES from across the UK will be congregating this month at the Winter Memorabilia Show at the NEC, Birmingham.

Movie stars, television personalities and sporting legends will be meeting fans and giving autographs, alongside a huge range of special guests and exhibitors.

A number of cast reunions will be taking place at TV series such as cult British comedies Only Fools and Horses and Hi-de-hi.

This year’s guest list also includes Kellie Owens from Titchwell, Sir Derek Jacobi from The King’s Speech, Bruce Boxleitner from Tron and Babylon 5 and Bruce Davison from X-Men.

Among sports stars signing autographs and meeting fans will be former footballers Roy Keane, Denis Law, Trevor Francis, Katie McNaught from Aston Villa’s 1982 European Cup Final winning team, and ex-heavyweight champion Tim Witherspoon.

There’s even a special Doctor Who appearance as Colin Baker, the sixth Doctor, Arthur Darvill, Rory Williams, Kellie Owens, Rhys Williams, will be among the special guests at the show.

Experience

Other Doctor Who stars attending Memorabilia include Doctor’s companions Kley Manning, Deborah Watling, Louise Jameson and Sarah Sutton, while Frances Barber, William Gaunt, Marshall Lancaster and Cheeth Durrant, all of which have appeared in the series, will be making appearances.

In addition to all the star guests, there’s a chance to experience the special Battlefield 3 Operations Outpost which is themed around the critically-acclaimed shooter game which is on everyone’s lips at the moment.

As well as viewing the game on a giant 103in screen, the outpost will provide five other console gaming stations and pair of PC gaming stations in addition to the 400 of the same game. Memorabilia visitors can have their photo taken in a Battlefield 3 scene.

For creative types, the show also features Comic Village where comic creators, artists, writers or fans can meet and gain insight into new creations, as well as guidance and advice on a project.

The show is open to the public from 10am to 5pm on Saturday, November 19 and from 11am to 5pm on Sunday, November 20.

The Memorabilia Show is always popular with fans and visitors alike.

For more details log on to the website at www.the nec.co.uk
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LOW & ORDER SPECIAL
WICKET UNIT
Channel 3, 9:34pm
**North American Hampers**

**Australian Hampers**
- Australian Wine – £47.75
  - NEW: 3L Sparkling Wine, 75cl
- Harveys Shiraz, 75cl
- Hardys Shiraz Cabernet, 75cl
- Australian Food – £47.75
  - NEW: Christmas Stocking, filled with confectionary for children to hang on the end
- Whittings Christmas Pudding, 400g
- Whittings Christmas Fruit Cake, 375g
- Ross & Denford Traditional Joint, 15kg
- Bennetts Chocolate Mint Fudge, 75g
- Bennetts Christmas Pudding, 1.5kg
- Bennetts Christmas Fruit Cake, 1kg
- Bennetts Christmas Cake, 500g
- Christmas Cake, 400g
- Christmas Cake, 300g
- Christmas Cake, 200g
- Christmas Cake, 100g
- Christmas Cake, 50g
- Christmas Cake, 25g
- Christmas Cake, 12g

**Canadian Hampers**
- Canadian Wine – £53.75
  - NEW: 5L Sparkling Wine, 75cl
- Harveys Shiraz, 75cl
- Hardys Shiraz Cabernet, 75cl
- Canadian Food – £47.75
  - NEW: Christmas Stocking, filled with confectionary for children to hang on the end
- Whittings Christmas Pudding, 400g
- Whittings Christmas Fruit Cake, 375g
- Ross & Denford Traditional Joint, 15kg
- Bennetts Chocolate Mint Fudge, 75g
- Bennetts Christmas Pudding, 1.5kg
- Bennetts Christmas Fruit Cake, 1kg
- Bennetts Christmas Cake, 500g
- Christmas Cake, 400g
- Christmas Cake, 300g
- Christmas Cake, 200g
- Christmas Cake, 100g
- Christmas Cake, 50g
- Christmas Cake, 25g
- Christmas Cake, 12g

**Australasian Hampers**
- Australian Wine – £47.75
- Australian Food – £47.75
- New Zealand Wine – £47.75
- New Zealand Food – £47.75
- Australian Luxury – £53.75
- New Zealand Luxury – £53.75

**Australian Wine**
- 8 x 3L Sparkling Wine, 75cl
- 6 x Harveys Shiraz, 75cl
- 6 x Hardys Shiraz Cabernet, 75cl

**Australian Food**
- 12 x Christmas Stocking, filled with confectionary for children to hang on the end
- 1 x Whittings Christmas Pudding, 400g
- 1 x Whittings Christmas Fruit Cake, 375g
- 1 x Ross & Denford Traditional Joint, 15kg
- 1 x Bennetts Chocolate Mint Fudge, 75g
- 1 x Bennetts Christmas Pudding, 1.5kg
- 1 x Bennetts Christmas Fruit Cake, 1kg
- 1 x Bennetts Christmas Cake, 500g
- 1 x Christmas Cake, 400g
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- 1 x Christmas Cake, 100g
- 1 x Christmas Cake, 50g
- 1 x Christmas Cake, 25g
- 1 x Christmas Cake, 12g

**Lemon Lime & Balm**
- Lemon Lime & Balm
- 8 x 100ml

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- 3.5T Horsebox (N) refurbished, Nissan Terrano 3.0L TDi 5 Seater Van (55), Leyland 245, Ford 3000
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KIA has been steadily advancing its range with the ambition to have the newest line-up in the UK and the Rio is its latest car.

The Rio is a direct competitor to cars such as the Fiesta and Corso so it needs to be good to compete in this market – and first impressions are excellent.

The Rio has been restyled and is a new take on the classic wedge style. What this means for me is that there is great ratio of bodywork to glass. Sometimes cars in this sector look more like greenhouses on wheels than stylish cars so top marks to Kia here. In terms of practicality the Rio has a large boot, which I did manage to fill, so can bear testament to its load carrying capacity.

The interior Kia has done a great job with the height adjustable driver’s seat and steering column. The instrument cluster is well designed with the three clock binnacle and numerous switches on the steering wheel which all fell easily to hand. Other switches are in the centre and are toggle type switches, which I really liked. Also the rear seats can be folded down to create even more space if needed.

By Neil Ward

For a first test I had a drive from London to Shropshire – so if the Kia was not going to cut it, this would be a good way to find out.

Bearing in mind it is a 1.1 litre engine I was surprised that it pulled so well and very quickly the Rio settled into its stride on the motorway. Keeping pace in the outside lane was no problem and with the nice six-speed gearbox it was not tiring to drive. And, boot, it was achieving nearly 80mpg!

How can I put this? With budget cars, sometimes there is a flaw in the overall experience so my expectation was that everything else being OK the comfort would be compromised – but Kia has put it right again by the Rio. After nearly three hours in the car I did not feel any tiredness at all which did surprise me but is testament to the care that Kia has put in to this car.

So in search of a flaw I pushed the Rio around the Shropshire lanes to see if the suspension and steering had been the object of the bean counters’ revenge but, again, no. The Rio handles well and soaks up the bumps easily. So how does the Kia compare to the others in a very competitive sector of the market? Very well with modern styling and a range of interiors there is pretty much everyone in the Rio range with a seven-year Kia warranty, really hit the spot in terms of quality and value.

The instrument cluster is well designed with switches on the steering wheel.

Kia’s Rio has a new take on the wedge style.
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Dudley Town 0 Bewdley Town 2

WEAKENED Bewdley put in a fine display to take a midweek victory on the road. Dudley had Aaron Shubin from the under-21 side filling in at full-back, but Town produced a round team performance – and Shubin, on his senior debut, was superb.

The first half of this match followed the pattern of many recent performances with Bewdley having the majority at the possession and playing some attractive football but failing to manufacture goal opportunities.

Both goalkeepers were virtual spectators until the 54th minute when the Bewdley shotstopper had to make a save from a Craig Baldie effort.

The second half followed the pattern of the first, but this time Bewdley were able to turn possession into opportunities.

The breakthrough came following a follow-up after Dudley's Ross Love turned the ball into his own net.

Dudley did put Bewdley under pressure in the last five minutes but still managed a shot on target.

Bewdley Town 3

Stourport 1

Stourport Ladies first team are unbeaten in hockey’s Midlands Premier League after a seven-goal thriller.

They led 4-2 and Lester’s last goal came right on the final whistle.

The home team had most of the early possession but conceded against the run of play.

Morgan’s yellow card reduced them to 10 players and they had to work up some pressure before equalising when Ruhu Cavendish converted a penalty flick.

Stourport looked more of a threat going forward in the second half and Erin Preece put them ahead with a deflected shot.

But again they went down to 10 players, Katie Miller this time through a deflected shot, and the visitors levelled the scores.

However, Stourport regained the advantage when Jade Marshall-Walker finished off a good move.

The Pilgrims ahead from a corner when Katie Miller curled in a cross which was met by Leanne Goodyer but the ball rebounded off the post and Rea Williams stopped the ball from crossing the line.

Stourport channelled their frustrations positively and gained their reward when they pulled a goal back.

A free-kick by Sarah O’Connor took a deflection and finished up in the corner.

Stourport, who had created some excellent chances before this goal, now pushed for the equaliser.

But Stourport held firm and moved top of the table while the home side suffered 5-2 defeat.

The visitors cause for hope.

When they fell behind after four minutes, the boys from Bewdley could have been forgiven for wondering what they had gained – but, of course, they hadn’t.

And with just 24 minutes left, the boys from Bewdley couldn’t have been forgiven for wondering what they had gained – but, of course, they hadn’t.

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